

## **2012-13**

# **TITLE I REGIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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### **What is the Grant Award Period?**

The grant award period is October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30th of the following year.

Annual grants are awarded as close as possible to October 1<sup>st</sup>, however delays can and do happen.

### **Who is eligible?**

Any ISD/RESA/RESA that serves school districts with Title I schools identified as a Priority school is eligible for this grant.

### **How is the allocation determined?**

The annual ISD/RESA/RESA allocation is determined based on two pieces of data:

1. The number of Title I schools under their jurisdiction that are identified as Priority schools.
2. In the first year of identification as a Priority school the ISD/RESA/RESA receives \$15,000. The allocation for those buildings in years 2 through 4, as long as a building is identified as Priority, is based upon the enrollment of each of the Priority school buildings.

### **What types of activities are supported by the RAG?**

ISDs use their RAG funds to build staff capacity in the identified **Priority** school by supporting continuous improvement that focuses on the reason(s) why the Title I school was identified as Priority. Activities may include the following supports and services that are based on demonstrated needs:

- School Improvement Facilitator who leads the School Support Teams (SST) - **REQUIRED**
- Content area coaches
- Professional learning
- Culture/Climate Interventions
- MDE-approved Restructuring Model
- Materials/supplies to support the above named activities
- Travel costs associated with the above named activities

### **Can the ISD use RAG funds for classroom or student materials/supplies?**

No. RAG funds may not be used to purchase classroom and/or student materials and supplies. Please refer to the previous question on the allowable uses of grant funds.

**How long should a school receive services under the current year award?**

As long as the Title I school is identified as Priority and the RAG funds remain available, they may continue to receive services.

**What happens if a school the ISD/RESA/RESA receives funding for is no longer identified as Priority when the list is released in August?**

Once identified as a Priority school, the school remains a Priority school for four years and will remain eligible until it is released from the Priority status by the MDE. Services should continue until the first day of the new school year following the release of the school from identification as a Priority school. Any funding remaining that was earmarked for that school may be transferred to any other MI Excel school the ISD/RESA/RESA currently serves. The ISD/RESA/RESA determines the priority and need for transferring funds in this scenario.

If existing contracts or obligations prevent the cessation of services, the ISD/RESA/RESA may continue services until such time those obligations or contracts expire, not to exceed the end of the grant period (9/30).

**My ISD receives \$60,000 for one school, \$125,000 for another, and \$75,000 for a third, for a total allocation of \$260,000. Do I have to budget those exact amounts for each building or do I have some leeway in expenditures?**

Actual needs will vary according to individual circumstances. MDE recommends that ISDs/RESAs/RESAs build budgets based on those needs. This seldom results in exactly \$60,000, \$75,000, or \$125,000 worth of services going to each eligible school.

**What if a school is no longer Title I and the ISD had scheduled programming for it in September? Can the ISD continue to serve them since the grant period ends 9/30?**

No. Services must stop by the first day of school. Federal statute is clear that these funds are for identified Title I schools only. These funds may not be used for non-Title I schools.

**Can we use these funds to support a Title I building that is identified as a Focus school?**

Yes, the law allows you to do so. However, you must bear in mind that the allocation formula does not include these schools. Any support provided to these schools may mean less support to other schools for which the ISD receives funding.

**Could we fund professional learning with this grant and allow participants from other non-identified Title I schools or non-Title I schools to attend?**

Yes, so long as these participants are charged a fee to attend or you find another funding source that allows you to cover their costs. Make sure to document how you funded the session(s) and detail the measures taken to ensure that Regional Assistance Grant funds were not spent outside of the statutory requirements and guidelines.

**What if a MI-Excel School receives a Section 1003(g) School Improvement Grant (SIG)?**

SIG receiving schools are no longer eligible for MI-Excel services. To that end, RAG funded services should cease no later than **August 30** of the year in which the school receives the SIG, unless existing contracts or obligations exist that must be honored.

Any remaining RAG funds that were allocated for the SIG school may be transferred to any other MI Excel school the ISD/RESA/RESA currently serves. The ISD/RESA/RESA determines the priority and need for transferring funds in this scenario.

SIG schools may purchase SSoS services with their SIG funds. No RAG funding may be used to so support a former MI-Excel school for as long as it receives SIG funding.

**I recently heard that SIG schools are required to have a school support team (SST). How does that work?**

SIG schools must have a SST as a condition of receiving their grant award. This applies to both SIG I and SIG II schools. This applies regardless of whether or not the school is Title I.

SIG schools must use their SIG dollars to fund the SST. The ISD/RESA **does not** use RAG funds for this purpose. MDE expects that SIG schools allocate and use \$7,500 from the SIG budget to purchase and support these activities from the local ISD/RESA/RESA.

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***New FAQs will be developed for the 2013-14 school year.***